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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEA REIGNITES ITS CAMPAIGN FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Idle Reduction Program now open for third round of funding for heavy duty fleets.

ANNAPOLIS (April 17, 2014)- The Maryland Energy Administration's (MEA) Grant Program for Idle Reduction Technology has now opened its third round of funding. Originally unveiled in October 2011, the newly extended program is funded through the MEA, and the U.S EPA Diesel Emissions Reduction Act for a total program budget of \$202,000. The program is led by the MEA in partnership with the Maryland Department of Environment and the Maryland Motor Truck Association. The program provides financial assistance to commercial, heavy-duty fleet owners and covers a portion of costs associated with installation of reduced fuel consumption technologies. This type of equipment is generally an add-on which reduces the amount of diesel consumed by approximately 70% when idling.

Smart investments in energy efficiency technologies improve the quality of life for Marylanders by affecting change in the industries that touch our everyday lives, said Abigail Ross Hopper, Director of Maryland Energy Administration. Idle reduction technologies save money for Maryland companies, clean our air, reduce health impacts from diesel pollution and drive our economy forward through the growing demand for this equipment.

Three (3) vehicle types are eligible for the Idle Reduction Grant Program, on-highway class 6 to class 8 heavy trucks, Maryland registered trucks (including new trucks that will be registered in the state), and leased vehicles. Buses are not eligible. Program funding is intended to reduce the costs of Auxiliary Power Units (APU), Fuel Operated Heaters (FOH), Automatic Stop-Start Systems, Electric Truck Refrigeration Units (eTRU), Battery Operated Air Conditioning Systems (BAC), Thermal Storage Systems (TSS) and on-board (truck mounted) accessories such as inverters, battery upgrades, electrical connections and electric heaters and air conditioning units. Eligible idle reduction technologies must be verified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or California Air Resources Board (CARB).

Director Hopper praised the program stating the movement of goods and people in the state of Maryland is fueled by diesel. These types of grant programs ensure that our health and air quality are not negatively impacted by the fuel that powers our economy.

Applications for the Idle Reduction Grant Program are now being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until 4pm on September 1, 2014.

For more information, visit <http://energy.maryland.gov/transportation/idle>

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The mission of the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) is to promote affordable, reliable, clean energy. MEA's programs and policies help lower energy bills, fuel the creation of green collar jobs, address environmental and climate impacts, and promote energy independence.